Package for North-Eastern region

†1896. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any group was sent to North-East region recently;

(b) the amount utilized from the package earlier given by the Prime Minister;

(c) the expansion of rail and road taken place in kilometres during last five years;

(d) whether activities related to neighbouring country/countries have come to notice; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Consequent upon North East Business Summit held on 15-16th September 2008 at Guwahati which was attended by Chief Ministers of Assam, Sikkim and Mizoram and ministers from North Eastern States, entrepreneurs and Ambassadors from nine ASEAN countries, Ambassadors of Czech-Republic, Arab League of States, Bhutan and delegation from Bangladesh, Head of Missions of several countries and their representatives especially Venezuela, Ecuador and some Latin American countries and Czech Republic have visited the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram. Prior to that, Ambassadors from Nordic Countries coordinated by Swedish Ambassador and Italy visited to some of the North Eastern States.

(b) The details of announcements made by the Prime Minister during visits to the North-East Region may be seen on the website of this Ministry *www.mdoner.in.* A summary of announcements made during the last four years is given in the Statement.

The PM's packages are activity related which are to be implemented by sectoral ministries/departments out of their Gross Budgetary Support, 10% of which is marked to North Eastern States except in case of exempted ministries/departments.

(c) As regards expansion of railways, the information provided by the Ministry of Railways is as follows:—

Sl. No	Date of Announcement	States	Item	Length (in Km.)	Expenditure as on March, 2008 (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	20 and 21 November, 04	Manipur	Jiribam-Imphal	125	36.57
2.	21 and 22 November, 04	Assam	Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam and Badarpur to Kumarghat	368.35	1180.96

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	29 October, 05	Tripura	Kumarghat-Agartala	109	818.08
4.	16-17 January, 06	Assam	Bogibeel bridge	73	945.00
5.	January, 31 and February, l, 2008	Arunachal Pradesh	Harmuti-Itanagar	33	4.04

As regards expansion of roads in the North Eastern Region, the Department of Road Transport and Highways mentioned that there is no separate provision for PM packages. This is part of road development programmes of the ministry as a whole. Regarding expansion of road network, that Department informed that during the last five years, 223 km National Highway has been declared and during the current year, 1600 km. of National Highway has been declared in North Eastern Region.

(d) Except sporadic news reports, nothing substantial has come to our notice.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

The summary of announcements made by the Prime Minister during visits to the North-East Region during last four years

Sl. No.	Date/Year	State	Areas of Activity
1	2	3	4
1.	20th and 21st November, 2004	Manipur	Develop administrative infrastructure, improve connectivity and rural health infrastructure, electrification of tribal villages, upgradation of higher institutions, establishment of sports academy at Khuman Lampak and development of irrigation facilities.
2.	21st and 22nd November, 2004	Assam	Flood control and soil conservation, blueprint for employment improving connectivity — air, rail, road improving health infrastructure, setting up micro hydel projects including rural electrification, setting up NE water authority, support to tea industry and create games infrastructure.
3.	29th October, 2005	Tripura	Improve connectivity road, rail and telephone, upgradation of higher institution, connection of Agartala to East-West Corridor at Jorbat on NH-37, restoration of rail and road transit through Bangladesh, four-laning of NH-44 and construction of State capital complex.

1	2	3	4
4.	16th and 17th January, 2005	Assam	Setting up of Gas Cracker Project, upgradation of it in 4 centres, upgradation of Doordarshan transmission, setting up of an IT park and SEZ, rural electrification, safe drinking water supply, telephone connection to all villages, setting up of nursing college, launching of North East Water Resources Authority (NEWRA).
5.	2nd December, 2006	Manipur	Up gradation of Regional Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) and Manipur Institute of Technology, improving connectivity, setting up of five hospitals and a convention centre at Imphal, Installation of night landing facilities at Imphal Airport, launching of Tipaimukh and Loktak downstream hydro electric projects.
6.	31st January, and 1st February, 2008	Arunachal Pradesh	Electrification of all houses, construction of green airport, helicopter service — Guwahati to Tawang, construction of Trans-Arunachal Highways, providing drinking water facility to all remote villages, assistance to flood-affected areas, construction of new secretariat building, construction of new railway lines, setting up of power projects and drinking water project at Itanagar
7.	25th and 26th August, 2008	Assam	Setting up of world-class University in Assam, Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Model School, assistance to setting up a centre of Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, raising up two India reserve battalions, flood control measures, setting up of Science City in Guwahati, establishing a State level University of Science and Technology as well as a Law School and Judicial Academy and Promotion of Tourism.

GM trials

1897. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India finds it defensive in agricultural trade for permitting field trials across the country in a host of genetically modified food crops like rice, brinzal, okra, potato, tomato and groundnuts, *etc.*, thereby exposing conventional crops to the risk of transgenic contamination;

(b) if so, the safeguards for conducting GM trial in the country;